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REPORT
OF
H. D. JOHNS, M.D.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
FOR
Hornsea-with-Burton Urban
District Council,
FOR THE YEAR 1920.



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MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The following Report was presented by the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1920.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hornsea Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

It is now necessary for me to wait until the middle of April before commencing my Annual Report. The reason for this is that all Vital Statistics are now collected and tabulated in the Registrar-General's Office, the figures being taken from the weekly returns sent in from each District.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The Park, which was acquired last year, is being used by the inhabitants and visitors. Having an area of 24 acres, it keeps the middle of the town absolutely open, which is a very important matter from a social as well as from a public health point of view.

Owing to the cost of building it has been considered wise to delay the building of the War Memorial Hospital for a few months.

Hornsea has an area of 2,918 acres. The population in 1911 was 3,024, and the estimated population in 1920 was 3,470. The average number of persons per house was 3.75.

I am again indebted to Mr. Lord for the following particulars of the Rainfall:—

No. of days when rain fell, 108; heaviest rainfall in one day (29th May), .75 in.; wettest month of the year, July; wettest day in July, 4th; total rainfall for 1920, 23.5 ins.; total rainfall for 1919, 25.5 ins.; Average total rainfall for the past 10 years, 24.43 ins. Therefore, 1920 was not a wet year. The fact that July was a very wet month may explain the general dissatisfaction with the weather last Summer.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

I am glad to inform you that there have been 77 Births against 40 deaths during the past year. This gives a Birth-rate of 22·19, and a Death-rate of 11·52. If we look into these figures and compare them with those for the County or Country, we shall find them extremely satisfactory. The 1920 Birth-rate for the Administrative County was 24·3 and the Death-rate 12·3. The 1920 Birth-rate for England and Wales was 25·4 and the Death-rate 12·4. Of our 77 Births, only 2 were illegitimate. There were 9 more males than females born.

Of the 40 Deaths, 4 persons died of Cancer or Malignant Disease, otherwise the following list requires no comment:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3
Organic Heart Disease	4
Bronchitis	3
Pneumonia	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	1
Appendicitis	1
Bright's Disease	2
Parturition	1
Congenital Debility	3
Other Defined Diseases	17

Four children died under the age of one year, or 52 Deaths per 1,000 Births.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Apart from the regular and systematic inspection of the District, the following has been done chiefly by Mr. Warburton, the Sanitary Inspector:—

987 Dwelling Houses have been inspected under Sec. 17 of the Act of 1909. No applications have been made for closing Houses. Defects have been found in 76 and remedied. These defects have been mostly due to Ashpits and Sanitary Bins.

FOOD.

The Milk supply is good and abundant. It is derived from Farmers in and around Hemsea.

11 Dairies are registered under the Act of November 1st, 1888. These 11 Dairies contain 105 cows. They have been visited 11 times, and the Cowsheds 38 times. 3 defects were found and remedied.

There are 4 licensed Slaughter-houses in Hornsea, which have received 26 visits. 11 defects were found and remedied.

85 lbs. of meat and 42 lbs. of fish had been condemned as unfit for human food.

WATER.

Our Water is derived from a deep well in the chalk, supplemented by a more superficial bore. The following details were given by Mr. Elliott, the Waterworks Engineer:—

Supply from January 1st to December 31st, 1920:—

	Gallons.
Total quantity of Water pumped	32,874,625
Maximum pumped in one day (June 8)	112,500
Minimum pumped in one day (January 18)	50,375
Total quantity consumed	32,855,425
Maximum consumed in one day (July 25)	108,466
Minimum consumed in one day (December 26)	74,398
Average daily consumption	89,769

1920 was a very unfortunate year with us, and if I state exactly what happened I feel it will go far to reassure those who dread a repetition of the inconveniences of last year.

All our trouble was due to two accidents happening when our consumption was at its maximum. These troubles are not likely to occur again. On 16th July, a part of the machinery of the 3-throw Pump at the old well gave way, and consequently the Council had to curtail the supply for a certain number of hours per day whilst repairs were being carried out. On July 29th, the bore-hole of the new Well in Sisson's Field was found to be falling off in its supply, so much so that by August 9th, it was only yielding 200 gallons per hour. Again, curtailments were inevitable whilst repairs were effected. I think your Council should be complimented as to the action taken in what all must admit was a most difficult situation.

The quality of our Water is satisfactory. There has been no water-borne Disease.

The Drains are regularly flushed and Traps inspected. The Scavenging is satisfactory.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There have only been 18 cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1920. This is most satisfactory, especially when we remember that Hornsea is a health resort and virtually a suburb of Hull, and as such is exposed to imported Disease.

The 18 cases are made up as follows:—

Diphtheria, 4, all in separate Houses (one Patient was removed to the County Council Infectious Disease Hospital, Driffield); Scarlet Fever, 4 cases (two cases were removed to Hospital); Enteric Fever, 1 case. This one case is a resident of Hornsea, but the result of my enquiries convinced me that the Disease was contracted outside our District. Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 5 cases, two of which were treated at Raywell, which is the new Sanatorium opened by the East Riding County Council; Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1 case; and Pneumonia, 4 cases.

Anti-Typhoid and Anti-Diphtheric Serum is supplied at the public expense to all persons requiring it.

The rooms which have been occupied by persons suffering from Infectious Diseases have been disinfected by your Sanitary Inspector.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The ladies of the Hornsea Nursing Association, co-operating with the County Council Health Visitor, call upon and advise all expectant and nursing mothers. Nurse Motson, C.M.B., not only visits those in Hornsea, but those in the surrounding Villages. An annual Grant of £25 is made by your Council towards the salary of this Nurse.

It has not been necessary to make any orders for Food and Milk.

HOUSING.

The number of Dwelling Houses in Hornsea is now 987, an increase of 47 during the past 12 months. 28 new Houses have been built by your Council.

Our 987 Dwelling Houses are visited by your Sanitary Inspector quarterly. 85 Notices have been served; 18 Houses have been Disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease; 4 Houses have had their Privies converted into W.C.'s; 4 Houses have had their Privies converted into Pail Closets; 30 Houses have been newly supplied from the Water Mains.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

H. D. JOHNS, M.D., M.O.H

